

06-12-2019 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions #1

ITEM #10: Consider the Final 2019-20 Budget and Related Items

Council Question: From the way p. 282 is worded in regards to the changes from the recommended budget, will the \$5K for the Orange Co. Veterans Memorial be set aside explicitly for the memorial, or will it be lumped in with the total Community & Cultural Arts funding for the Orange Co. Vets Memorial Committee to apply for?

Staff Response: *The \$5,000 will be set aside explicitly for the Orange County Veterans Memorial.*

The remainder of the Community & Cultural Arts money will be allocated to the Arts Center (\$12,500), Community Dinner (\$1,000) and Kidzu (\$5,000) based on FY 2019 allocations.

06-12-2019 Town Council Meeting
Responses to Council Questions #2

ITEM #10: Consider the Final 2019-20 Budget and Related Items

Council Question: Why is the fee for domestic partnership registration so high? Could we consider reducing it? NYC is \$35 and the state of California it is \$10.

Staff Response: *The fee for a partnership or a dissolution of a partnership is \$50. The Chapel Hill Town Council adopted the ordinance authorizing Domestic Partner in April 1995. The resolution authorizing Domestic Partner (outlining the \$50 fee) was also adopted in April 1995. Both documents are attached. As the resolution indicates, the Council could choose to change the fee by adopting a resolution establishing the new fee.*

Chapel Hill is one of two North Carolina municipalities (Carrboro is the other) that performs Domestic Partnerships for both heterosexual partners and same sex partners. Asheville performs Domestic Partnerships for same sex partners only. Carrboro's fee is \$40, while Asheville's fee is \$45.

Three Communications and Public Affairs (CaPA) staff members perform these partnerships. Each partnership takes about 20 minutes to do and we provide paper copies of the certificates and applications to the partners. We've performed partnerships for residents of several other states that travel here specifically for a partnership. Since June 2018, CaPA has issued 50 domestic partnership registrations.

Council Question: Assuming the Urban Design position is created in the budget passed by Council, what would be the timeframe for hiring for the position?

Staff Response: *We would aim to have someone in place by early September. This would depend in part on how quickly we receive responses from enough qualified applicants to form a candidate pool, as well as scheduling and conducting an interview/assessment process and completing the hiring process (reference checks, background check, etc.).*

- (Donors of a specified threshold amount or more).

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1 OF THE TOWN CODE (95-4-24/O-8a)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of Chapel Hill that the Council amends Chapter 1 of the Town Code as follows:

Section 1

ADD to Section 1-2, Definitions and rules of construction, a new paragraph in appropriate alphabetical order to read as follows:

Domestic partners. Two individuals who have reached the age of majority and live together in a long-term relationship of indefinite duration, with an exclusive mutual commitment in which the partners share the necessities of life and are financially interdependent. Also, domestic partners are not married to anyone else, do not have another domestic partner and are not related by blood more closely than would bar their marriage in this State.

Section 2

This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

This the 24th day of April, 1995.

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING CHAPTER 14 OF THE TOWN CODE REGARDING SICK LEAVE AND MATERNAL AND FAMILY LEAVE FOR DOMESTIC PARTNERS OF TOWN EMPLOYEES (95-4-24/O-8c)

SECTION 1

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that Chapter 14, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Code of Ordinances as follows:

SECTION 1

In ARTICLE VIII, HOLIDAYS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE, the following sections are rewritten as follows:

Sec. 14-77 Sick Leave Policy.

Sick leave with pay shall be granted to an employee when sick or for illness in the employee's immediate family (including an employee's domestic partner as defined in Chapter 1 of the Town Code and the Domestic Partner's children) which requires the care of the employee. For the purpose of this section, domestic partners must provide documentation demonstrating established financial and legal ties, such as a joint mortgage, health care power of attorney, beneficiary of will or insurance policies, or other similar financial and/or legal relationships.

(The remaining paragraphs of this section are unchanged.)

Sec. 14-80.1 Family and Medical Leave.

The Town will comply with the applicable provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act. Domestic partners (as defined in Chapter 1 of the Town Code and children of domestic partners) of Town employees shall be considered to be members of the employee's family. For the purpose of this section, domestic partners must provide documentation demonstrating established financial and legal ties, such as a joint mortgage, health care power of attorney, beneficiary of will or insurance policies, or other similar financial and/or legal relationships.

SECTION 2

This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

This the 24th day of April, 1995.

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL REGARDING CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT
(95-4-24/O-8d)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Chapel Hill that Chapter 14, Personnel Rules and Regulations, Code of Ordinances as follows:

In ARTICLE VI, CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT, Sec. 14-40 is hereby rewritten as follows:

Sec. 14-40 Employment of Relatives.

The Town strongly discourages the hiring of relatives, including domestic partners as defined in Chapter 1 of the Town Code, or of persons with a close personal relationship within the same department, division, or work group, and ~~strongly discourages~~ does not allow the establishment of supervisor/employee relationships between relatives, domestic partners or persons otherwise having with a close personal relationship. However, the Town does not discourage the employment of related persons working in different departments or work units.

For the purpose of this section, domestic partners are further defined as two persons who have established financial and legal ties, such as a joint mortgage, health care power of attorney, beneficiary of will or insurance policies, or other similar financial and/or legal relationships.

SECTION 2

This ordinance shall be effective upon adoption.

This the 24th day of April, 1995.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REGISTRATION OF DOMESTIC PARTNERS
(95-4-24/R-11c)**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Council authorizes the Manager or Manager's designee to register domestic partners as follows:

- * Registration may occur in the Town Clerk's Office by signatures of the domestic partners affirming their partnership in the presence of a Town employee who is a notary public.
- * The fee for registrations or dissolutions shall be \$50 or such amount as may be established by resolution of the Council from time to time.
- * The Town Manager may establish administrative procedures for registration and dissolution of domestic partnerships.

This the 24th day of April, 1995.